VLR-5/21/74, NRHP-11/5/74

Form 10-300 (Prv. 5-72) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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The Hollins College Quadrangle is defined by six stylistically varied nineteenth and early-twentieth-century buildings. Visually united by materials, colors, and proportions, the complex forms an interesting and harmonious assemblage. The quadrangle did not receive its present form as the result of a preconceived plan, but evolved over a period of nearly eighty years. The earliest buildings on the quadrangle dated prior to the founding of the college and were built for the Botetourt Springs resort which operated from 1820 to 1841. The resort's hotel served as a dormitory from the time the school was formed until it was pulled down in 1900. The earliest remaining building on the quadrangle, and the first built specifically for the college, is East Building, erected 1856-58 opposite the hotel building. The quadrangle's northern end was defined by Main Building, erected in 1861; and with the erection of three additional buildings the quadrangle became an enclosed space. The modified Romanesque-style Bradley Chapel was built in the corner between East and Main Buildings in 1883. The octagonal Botetourt Hall was located in the corner between Main Building and the old hotel building in 1890. The quadrangle's south end was closed in 1908 by the erection of the Neo-Classical-style Charles Cocke Memorial Library.

Descriptions of Individual Buildings West Building

By the late-nineteenth century it was decided that the original hotel building should be demolished and replaced by a new structure. Funds were not available to undertake this project all at once, thus three-story brick wings were added to either end of the hotel in 1890. The rest of the building was demolished in 1900 and replaced by the present three-story brick structure filling in the space between the brick wings. The resulting threapart structure is the present West Building. Its gable-end-front wings originally contained an infirmary, doctor's office, faculty 1-1ving quarters and halls for literary societies. The long center portion, completed in 1904, features a central pedimented pavilion with a projecting tetrastyle portico set on a six-bay brick arcade. The portico is composed of paired Doric columns set on pedestals with an entablature and balustrade above. A cupola originally accented the roof, but it was later removed. Shading the first floor on either side of the portico are wooden galleries with bracketed posts. Except for the portico and galleries, the building is a quite plain brick structure. The windows are tall and narrow with segmental lintels and two-pane sash. As originally laid out its first floor consisted of parlors, apartments, and a room for the YWCA. The building now serves a dormitory for 175 students.

East Building

East Building is a three-story Greek Revival structure of brick, and is considered the most architecturally significant building in the complex. The 144' X 36' structure is fronted by an impressive three-tiered portico. The fluted Greek Doric columns extend the height of the second and third stories, and are set on squat one-story round piers. The facade is crowned by a Doric entablature. Long balconies are at the second and third-story levels. A flight of steps originally led up to the center door of the second story level, but it has since been removed. The building now serves as a dormitory, but one old classroom with its early desks has been preserved.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

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7.

Main Building

Main Building is the focal point of the complex and shows a mixed stylistic influence. The center section is accentuated by a pedimented Ionic portico set on a brick arcade. The pediment is enriched by a scrollwork typmanum and bracketed cornices. Extending across the building's first floor are wooden galleries with elliptical arched bays and Chinese lattice railings. The second floor windows are topped by shallow segmental pediments. A cupola was added to the roof in 1879, but was removed after 1900.

The college's main reception rooms are located on Main Building's first floor, and are decorated with heavy Neo-Classical architectural trim. In one of the smaller reception rooms is a mantel salvaged from the original hotel building. The east end of the first floor now serves as office space, although the upper floors still serve as dormitories. Main Building housed the dining room until the erection of Botetourt Hall, and the Chapel until the erection of Bradley Chapel.

Bradley Chapel

The Bradley Chapel building is a pleasing late-nineteenth-century brick structure featuring very narrow round-arched windows and a steep hipped roof. Above the center bay is a single pedimented dormer with two arches. The first floor is shaded by a later Tuscan porch and curved Tuscan colonnades which connect the building to the adjacent structures. The building's auditorium is intact although it is no longer used for a chapel.

Botetourt Hall

Botetourt Hall, originally called New Dining Hall, is an octagonal building of brick, shaded on its main sides by wooden galleries, and topped by an octagonal dome. Each side of the octagon is pierced by three narrow round-arched windows. The main floor of the building still serves as the school's dining hall, although the ground floor has been remodeled for a post office and bookstore.

Charles Cocke Memorial Library

The Charles Cocke Memorial Library at the south end of the quadrangle is a dignified Neo-Classical building of brick. Its dominant features are the pedimented hexastyle Roman Tonic porticos on both its front and rear elevations. The building is covered by a shallow hipped roof and is surrounded by a full entablature. As originally constructed, it had a combined gymnasium-auditorium on the ground floor with library above. When later converted into Administration offices, the president's and dean's offices were located in the former library space.

The quadrangle has walks extending along the center of each axis. It is informally planted with many shade trees, mostly ash, elms, and sugar maples.

C.L.

IGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	[] 17th Century	🔀 19th Century	•
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (II Applica)	ble and Known)		
PEAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Approp	riate)	
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Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi.	Other (Specify)
Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
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Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
☐ Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

The Hollins College Quadrangle is the architectural focal point of one of the South's most distinguished institutions of higher learning for young ladies. The college traces its origins to the founding of the Roanoke Female Seminary in 1839 at what was then the Botetourt Springs resort. Shortly afterwards, the Valley Union Educational Society purchased the school and incorporated it into the Valley Union Seminary, a coeducational school which opened in 1842. The school's most influential leader, Charles L. Cocke, took charge of the institution in 1846, and ably guided it through difficult periods of debt and war. He was instrumental in having the

seminary returned to an all-female school, saying in 1857 that "In the present state of society in our country young ladies require the same thorough and rigid mental training that is afforded to young men." The school's name was changed to Hollins Institution in honor of Mr. and Mrs. John Hollins of Lynchburg, who in 1855 granted a large sum for the erection of a new building. The name again was changed in 1911 to Hollins College.

The college's tree-shaded quadrangle with its rambling and brick buildings not only reflects the school's history and growth, but presents an interesting assemblage of mineteenth and early-twentieth-century scholastic architecture. The earliest building on the quadrangle, and the first built specifically for the school is East Building, erected in 1856 with the funds from the Hollins grant. With its impressive Doric colonnade East Building is one of western Virginia's major examples of Greek Revival architecture. Its mason was 0.W. Brown, and D. C. Yates served as its master carpenter. Main Building was begun in 1860 by David Deyerle and G.A. Sedon, with its design attributed to Messers. Grant and Henning. Originally it was proposed that Main Building be fronted by a large colonnale,

Bradley Chapel, a simple structure of modified Romanesque style, was the first major building put up after the war. Its builders were G.A. Sedon and George Etter. Sedon also worked on the distinctive octagonal Botetourt Hall, erected as a dining hall in 1890. Around 1900, the last building dating from the time of the Botetourt Springs resort was pulled down for the center section of West Building. West Building's large brick wings had been erected about ten years earlier. The Neo-Classical style Charles L. Cocke Library was the last building erected on the quadrangle. Named in honor of the man considered the school's founder, the building was completed in 1908, and closed in the quadrangle's south end.

similar to East Building, but the design was simplified in execution,

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